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MAY 3 1966

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CAREFUL OVERSIGHT

CIA Not Invisible, Russell Asserts

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WASHINGTON, May 3—It's a funny thing to say about a spy agency maybe, but Sen. Richard B. Russell says the CIA gets "more careful oversight" than any other federal agency.

The Georgia Democrat, possibly in the cloak-and-dagger tradition, seldom talks about how he keeps an eye on the Central Intelligence Agency.

The CIA engages in espionage, intrigue and, one gathers, more violent pursuits if necessary as well as the drudgery of careful analysis of data from all possible sources about what goes on around the world.

One of its homefront endeavors has recently come to light in a federal court in Baltimore, where Erik Heine, an Estonia emigre, is suing Juri Raus, another Estonia emigre, for \$110,000 for slander.

THE CIA has admitted that Raus, an employee of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads here, also is a CIA agent and that he was instructed to spread charges that Heine was really an agent of the Russian secret police.

"I knew that case was going to cause a bad reaction from the American people," Sen. Russell said.

But he did not criticize the



SEN. RUSSELL
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CIA for what it has done, and he seems to think that it does a pretty good job generally.

Sen. Russell is chairman of the senate subcommittee charged with oversight of the CIA and its highly secret expenditures and operations. The House has a similar committee.

THE SENATE GROUP is made up of six senior members of the armed services and appropriations committees.

Chairman J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee,

has suggested increasing the membership of the CIA subcommittee so his panel can be represented.

"I'm opposed to anybody's suggestion to add members," Sen. Russell said. "Every time you add a member, it increases the danger of some very disastrous leak."

Sen. Russell appointed a new member this year himself to a place already authorized, but long unfilled.

He added Sen. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, the second-ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee. He did so, he said, because Sen. Leverett Saltonstall, the senior Republican, is not going to seek re-election and Sen. Russell wanted Sen. Smith to get a year's experience before automatically succeeding Sen. Saltonstall.

"And Sen. Smith is a fine security risk," Sen. Russell said. "She has had access to highly classified information on the Armed Services Committee, and I must say there has never been any hint of a leak."

A RECENT series of articles in the New York Times raised some questions about oversight of the CIA—congressional and otherwise. Sen. Russell is confident none of the information

came from his subcommittee.

"We have more meetings to check on the CIA than any other agency," he said. "I ought to know; I'm on appropriations subcommittees for about two-thirds of them and I keep up with the others."

"The CIA is in a peculiar position. They can't defend themselves. But I sometimes

think we know more about how they spend their funds than about what goes with the money that Congress gives some of these big bureaucratic agencies."

Neither the federal budget nor the appropriations bill reflects CIA spending. Because of its highly secret operations, its funds are "hidden" in appropriations for other agencies.

Sen. Russell said his subcommittee knows where the money goes, though. It keeps up with both the financial affairs and the field operations of the CIA.

"We know the number of employees they have, how they spend the money, what they spend it for," the senator said.

"We keep up with it pretty well. In fact, we have forced some economies. I know we did because I did it myself."

The New York Times estimated that the CIA spends

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